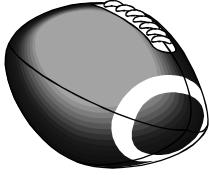


# WISCONSIN WELLHEAD PROTECTION NEWS

**Fall 2002**



## **FALL IS UPON US**

A chill is in the air. Football is in full swing. Work is continuing to complete the source water assessments required by the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. This issue contains an update on Wisconsin's source water assessment efforts, including the timeframe for distribution of the source water assessments. Also included are congratulations to wellhead protection communities, information on the availability of new comprehensive planning and groundwater fact sheets and other groundwater resources, and announcement of the first ever Wisconsin Groundwater Festival to be held next May.

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations are in order for a number of communities who are or have been involved in wellhead protection (WHP) planning to protect their water supply wells. Augusta, Barron, Bayfield, Cascade, Clintonville, Downsville Sanitary District, Fairchild, Frederic, Owen, Radisson, Taylor, Turtle Lake and Wisconsin Dells have worked with or are working with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) or Wisconsin Rural Water Association staff on wellhead protection plans, ordinances or both. You are commended for being proactive in protecting your water supply.

Communities which have developed wellhead protection plans for new wells since the last newsletter include Blue Mounds, Brookfield, Fairchild, Genoa City, Madison, New Berlin and Watertown. Hats off to these communities as well for recognizing the importance of wellhead protection. Keep up the good work!

The WDNR's wellhead protection website includes a listing of those communities who, according to our records, have adopted a plan for at least one of their wells. The list now includes over 170 communities. Check out the website at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/WI-WHP-Communities.pdf](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/WI-WHP-Communities.pdf).

If you would like assistance from the WDNR in getting started, three staff are available. Dave Johnson (608-261-6421 or [dave.johnson@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:dave.johnson@dnr.state.wi.us)) works with northeast and south central Wisconsin communities. Dave Lindorff works with communities in the southeast part of the state. Randell Clark (608-267-7895 or [randell.clark@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:randell.clark@dnr.state.wi.us)) works with communities in west, central and northern Wisconsin. All three have the same address and fax number (see below).

You can contact Ed Morse, Groundwater Technician for the Wisconsin Rural Water Association at 920-648-7578 or [edmorse@charter.net](mailto:edmorse@charter.net). Ed works with small communities (less than 10,000) on wellhead protection planning.

If you have ideas regarding topics or questions that could be addressed in future newsletters, contact me by phone (877-268-9355 toll free), by fax (608-267-7650), by email ([david.lindorff@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:david.lindorff@dnr.state.wi.us)) or regular mail (Wisconsin DNR, P. O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921).

Dave Lindorff, Editor

## **COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING "SMART GROWTH" AND GROUNDWATER FACT SHEETS AVAILABLE**

The Spring newsletter indicated that three fact sheets were nearly finished to assist communities in pulling together and evaluating groundwater and drinking water information for comprehensive planning. Those fact sheets were published in July and are now available in paper format and from the web.

These fact sheets are available in pdf format at the GCC website:  
[www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gcc/](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gcc/) or the DNR web site at:  
[www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/Pubdwnld.HTM](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/Pubdwnld.HTM).

You can access each fact sheet directly at these links:  
Fact Sheet 1 - Groundwater and its Role in Comprehensive Planning:  
[www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/SmartGrowt h1.pdf](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/SmartGrowt h1.pdf)  
Fact Sheet 2 - Resources to Help You Protect Your Drinking Water Supply:  
[www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/SmartGrowt h2.pdf](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/SmartGrowt h2.pdf)  
Fact Sheet 3 - Residential Development and Groundwater Resources  
[www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/SmartGrowt h3.pdf](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/SmartGrowt h3.pdf)

You can also obtain these fact sheets by calling Dave Lindorff at 608-266-9265. There is no cost for these publications.

## **GROUNDWATER SUMMIT REPORT AVAILABLE**

I mentioned the Groundwater Summit in the Spring 2002 newsletter. This Summit was held last October 30<sup>th</sup> and provided a forum for some 135 persons representing over 50 agencies and organizations to discuss future directions for groundwater protection.

The first product to come out of that Summit is now available. Titled "Sharing Our Buried Treasure," it summarizes the discussion at the Groundwater Summit and identifies possible actions to address the issues raised by attendees. The discussion is broken into 9 topics, including "Evaluating and Managing Threats to Groundwater Quality", Linking Land Use Planning and Groundwater Protection" and "Addressing Water Use and Conservation Issues."

The publication is available online at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gcc/gcc-gwsummit.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gcc/gcc-gwsummit.htm). You can click on the report title or see other materials related to the Summit. You can get a paper copy by contacting Dave Lindorff.

There will be a proceedings document and other materials produced as a followup to the Summit. There will be a continuing dialogue about groundwater issues during the Waters of Wisconsin Forum scheduled for the Monona Terrace in Madison October 21-22, 2002. Information on the

Forum is available at [www.wisconsinacademy.org/wow/forum/index.html](http://www.wisconsinacademy.org/wow/forum/index.html)  
The hope is that the attention being focused on Wisconsin's water resources will result in some positive movement to help plan wise use of this important resource.

## **DELINEATION PUBLICATION ON THE WEB**

The DNR recently scanned the 1993 DNR publication, "Determining Wellhead Protection Area Boundaries – An Introduction" and put the publication on our website. It is available as a pdf document at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/wellhead.htm#publications](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/wellhead.htm#publications). Now all the DNR wellhead protection publications are available for downloading from the web.

## **STATEWIDE GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL COMING NEXT MAY**

The first statewide Wisconsin Groundwater Festival will be held next May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in Stevens Point. The Festival will offer hands-on activities, presentations, and exhibit booths to help people learn the connection between groundwater, surface water, energy and humans. Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> will be a "School Day" for Wisconsin 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and their teachers. Saturday will be open to the public. The Festival will be held on the UW – Stevens Point campus and is being organized by Denise Kilkenny-Tittle, the State Groundwater Guardian Coordinator, and a committee representing a number of agencies and organizations. If you'd like more information about the Festival or would be willing to help, visit the website at [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gwguardian/wigg/](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gwguardian/wigg/) or contact Denise at 715-346-2722 or [gwguardian@uwsp.edu](mailto:gwguardian@uwsp.edu)

## **UPDATED GROUNDWATER MODEL LOAN LIST AVAILABLE SOON**

Are you interested in borrowing a groundwater sand tank model but aren't sure where to get one? If so, you're in luck. A new and up-to-date list of groundwater models available for loan will be available by early November. The DNR developed a list several years ago, but it has not been updated for awhile. Thanks to the efforts of Betty Prescott, DNR Bureau of Communication and Education, every person on the loan list has been called this summer. An updated list of groundwater models, and the person to contact in order to request its use, is now being compiled, and should be available electronically and in print in early November.

If you would like to receive a copy of the updated list of groundwater models for loan when it becomes available or if you have a groundwater model you are willing to add to the loan list, please contact: Becky Olson – CE/6, Wisconsin DNR at (608) 266-2172 or [rebecca.pottratz@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:rebecca.pottratz@dnr.state.wi.us). The list will also be available on the DNR groundwater education website at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/educate.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/educate.htm).

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

We are entering the home stretch for our source water assessment program (SWAP). The WDNR has been working hard to complete assessments for all public water systems as required by the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. As we reach the end of 2002, it's a good time to summarize what has been accomplished and remind you of our long-term source water protection goals.

### **What is a Source Water Assessment?**

A source water assessment is a document produced by WDNR staff and intended to provide basic information to public water suppliers regarding: 1) where their drinking water comes from and 2) the degree to which it may be impacted by potential sources of contamination.

Specifically, it includes the following:

- I. A brief description of Wisconsin's Source Water Assessment Program
- II. A map of the system's source water assessment area(s) and the potential contaminant sources within those area(s)
- III. A susceptibility determination based on presence of potential contaminant sources and other factors such as well construction, intake location, and geology
- IV. Recommendations for source water protection

### **Progress Report: How Are We Doing?**

#### **Groundwater Systems**

WDNR has delineated source water areas for all but a few groundwater systems. Potential contaminant inventories are being conducted by system and also on a statewide basis for certain potential contaminant source types. The inventories are nearly complete. Susceptibility determinations are just starting. These determinations are done using a newly developed computer application that uses information stored in various databases. When the susceptibility determinations are completed, source water protection recommendations and finalized assessments will soon follow.

#### **Surface Water Systems**

Wisconsin has drafted assessments for all 20 of its surface water systems. These assessments are written in accordance with the Great Lakes Protocol developed by the USEPA and the Great Lakes states. When completed, the assessments will be put on the internet.

### **Timeline and Distribution for Source Water Assessments**

WDNR plans to have source water assessments completed for all public water systems no later than December 2004. The surface water systems assessments and brief summaries of the groundwater system assessments will be available on the DNR website at that time.

### **What Happens Once Communities Receive Their Source Water Assessments?**

As the assessments are provided to the communities and made public, it is the hope of the WDNR and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency that communities will use the information in the source water assessment to take steps to protect their water supply. The information contained in the source water assessment will be valuable in taking the next step – source water protection. It is important that the local community decide what step or steps are needed to protect its water supply because it is most familiar with its particular circumstances. The WDNR can assist, but is not in a position to dictate what steps are appropriate to protect a particular municipal water supply.

In Wisconsin, source water protection for groundwater systems is the same as wellhead protection. The source water assessment will provide the basic information required for a wellhead protection plan except for the management or protection steps. Wisconsin has had a wellhead protection program plan in place since 1992 to require plans of all new municipal wells. There isn't a similar program for surface water systems in the state. But the assessments will provide valuable information to help surface water systems work to protect their water supply.

Source water protection is not new. It is really just working to prevent contaminants from entering the water supply, whether from surface water or groundwater. Many of the common sense efforts water systems make to ensure that the drinking water they provide is safe are source water protection efforts. The source water assessments will provide a wonderful opportunity for communities to evaluate their protection efforts and determine if additional steps are needed to provide additional source water protection. It is hoped that source water protection will be a cooperative effort between the water suppliers, water users, WDNR and other agencies and organizations to make sure that safe drinking water is being provided and water quality protected.

#### **How Can I Learn More?**

This article is a very general overview of Wisconsin's Source Water Assessment and Protection efforts. If you have questions about source water assessments, contact Jeff Helmuth, WDNR Source Water Protection Coordinator, at (608) 266-5234 or [jeffrey.helmuth@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:jeffrey.helmuth@dnr.state.wi.us). You can also visit the WDNR source water assessment website at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/swp.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/swp.htm).

The Wisconsin Wellhead Protection Newsletter is a publication of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater. Its purpose is to provide current information on wellhead protection topics. It is published in the spring and fall and as needed.

Comments, questions, suggestions and articles are welcome and can be sent to: David Lindorff, Editor, Wisconsin Wellhead Protection Newsletter, Department of Natural Resources, P. O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921  
Phone: 608-266-9265. Fax: 608-267-7650  
Toll free number: 877-268-9355 (WELL)  
Email address: [david.lindorff@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:david.lindorff@dnr.state.wi.us)

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240. This newsletter is available in an alternate format upon request. If interested, please contact David Lindorff, Editor.  
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**Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**P. O. Box 7921**  
**Madison, WI 53707-7921**

